



REPRESENTATIVE **Albio Sires**



Dear Neighbor,

The 110th Congress has made curbing the effects of global warming, ensuring the quality of our nation's water, and achieving energy independence top priorities. I believe it's important that we work together to protect our environment and develop new energy sources for our nation and for future generations.

This Congress has worked to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by increasing fuel economy standards and continuing to research new alternative energy sources. These are vital first steps we must take to reduce our dependence on foreign oil and help reverse the potentially harmful impact global warming could have on New Jerseyans and Americans.

Please take the time to read about the important work Congress is undertaking to protect our environment and energy security for future generations. I am committed to ensuring the health and safety of the 13th District by supporting legislation that makes water safety a priority, gives tax credits for energy efficient home improvements and puts us back on track with a sound energy policy. Thank you again for allowing me to serve you in Congress, and please feel free to contact me with any issues that are of concern to you.

Sincerely,

Albio Sires

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Official Business

This mailing was prepared, published
and mailed at taxpayer expense.



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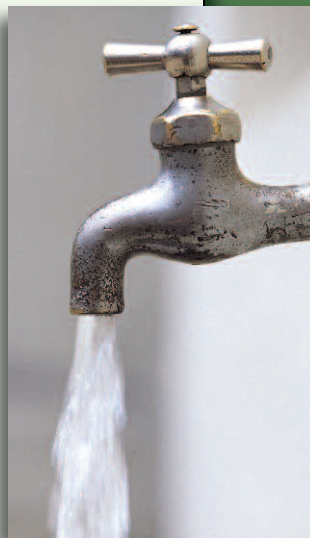
Energy Legislation

It has become clear that we need to end our dependence on foreign oil. America needs to move towards energy independence, and Congress has passed legislation to help us move in that direction. In December, Congress passed and President Bush signed the Energy Independence and Security Act into law. This legislation will increase fuel economy standards on all cars sold in the United States to 35 miles per gallon by 2020. Through these and other energy conservation provisions, greenhouse gas emissions will be cut by 24% by 2030. In addition, this legislation will help expand the production of American-grown biofuels to 36 billion gallons by 2022.



Although Congress has passed legislation that will put us on the road to energy independence, more still needs to be done. Incentives are needed to spur research and development in the alternative energy industry. Legislation must also be enacted to ensure that Americans are taking advantage of electricity produced from renewable sources, including wind, solar, biomass, geothermal, river currents, ocean tides, landfill gas, and trash combustion resources.

Currently, federal law gives a residential tax credit for solar energy and fuel cell technology. Unfortunately, tax credits for other energy efficient improvements such as insulation, replacement windows, water heaters, and certain high efficiency heating and cooling equipment have expired. Congress is working to extend those tax credits so that all homeowners are given tax incentives to make their homes more energy efficient.



Global Warming

Global warming is the most urgent environmental issue facing the nation today, and Congress has worked to reduce emissions that are responsible for global warming. Congressman Sires is a supporter of the Climate Stewardship Act and the Safe

Climate Act. Both of these bills establish a market-driven cap and trade system for greenhouse gases that use technology and the flexibility of the free market to reverse dangerous warming trends. Such a system will also help reduce our dependence on foreign oil.

Cleaner Water

Congress has made efforts to protect our oceans from environmental degradation. With ever increasing gas prices, some believe that Congress should expand oil exploration and drilling to new areas, like the coast of New Jersey.

Congressman Sires strongly opposes this and cosponsored the Clean Ocean and Safe Tourism Anti-Drilling Act. This bill would prohibit drilling for oil or gas off the east coast.

Closer to home, Congress has also acted to ensure the safety of our drinking water and waterways. For example, Congressman Sires cosponsored the Water Quality Investment Act that passed the House of Representatives on March 7, 2007. This bill would fund a \$1.7 billion grant program for municipalities and states to help modernize aging sewers affected by major rain and snow storms. This investment will lessen public health risks and help preserve our natural resources. It is vitally important to New Jersey and the 13th District given our aging infrastructure.